

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Reserve
aQH76
5
A6F67
2015

Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River

Regulations to Protect Fossil Creek, Coconino and Tonto National Forests



Forest Service
Southwestern
Region

RG-R3-04-04
Slightly revised
May 2015

What Makes Fossil Creek Special?

Fossil Creek is one of only two wild and scenic rivers in Arizona.

Fossil Creek is fed by springs coming from the cliffs of the Mogollon Rim. Over 30 million gallons of water are discharged each day at a constant 70 °F. The high mineral content leaves travertine dams and deposits, giving rise to fossil-like features.

In 2005, Arizona Public Service (APS) decommissioned the Fossil Creek Dam and Flume, restoring full flows to Fossil Creek.

Fossil Creek is a rare riparian area within an otherwise arid landscape. Many plants and wildlife depend on Fossil Creek for habitat, including otters, beavers, leopard frogs, and common black hawks.

Fossil Creek has a number of *Dilzhé'é* (Western Apache) cultural sites. The *Dilzhé'é* lived along Fossil Creek for generations and several families consider this to be their homeland.

Native-Only Fishery

After massive efforts, Fossil Creek is now a native only fishery. It is illegal to introduce, release, or move any fish, amphibian, or crayfish into or around Fossil Creek. Fossil Creek is a **seasonal** catch and release fishery for roundtail chub and headwater chub. It is an artificial fly and lure fishery, and only single barbless hooks may be used. It is your responsibility to know and observe Arizona Game and Fish Department regulations.



Roundtail chub by John Rinne

Attention— Rules for You at Fossil Creek

The Forest Service has rules for camping, fires, glass containers, and off-road driving for the Fossil Creek area. More than 100,000 people visit this area each year. Because of the heavy use, Fossil Creek is being “loved to death”—damaged by wood cutting, fires, new roads, trash, and human waste.



In 2009, Fossil Creek was designated by Congress as a national wild and scenic river. The Forest Service must, by law, protect this special place. Over the next few years, the Forest Service will work with the public to develop a long-term plan for the area. In the meantime, interim rules aim to protect the Fossil Creek area. Please respect and abide by the rules listed on the map side of this brochure.

How Can You Help?

- Obey all camping and fire rules.
- Stay on designated roads and trails.
- Use the provided porta-potties or bury your waste 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from any water source.
- **Bag your trash and take it home.**

Please respect the river!

MAR 17 2017

Received
Acquisitions and Metadata Branch

The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission has funded all or part of this brochure. The views or findings presented are those of the Forest Service and do not necessarily represent those of the commission, State, or Arizona Department of Water Resources.



NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

Funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.



For More Information . . .

Or to comment or become involved in the long-term planning for Fossil Creek, contact:

Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2529
Phone: (928) 527-3600

Or Visit:

www.fs.usda.gov/coconino

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.